described in the specification.

The applicants respectfully traverse the examiner's objection, in that the buffer pools 110 are shown in Figure 1a. With regard to the buffer pools of Figure 1b, it should be readily apparent that the number of buffer pools 110 shown is arbitrary, and indeed, any number of buffer pools 110 could have been be shown. The fact that four (110A-110D) are shown in Fig. 1a, and three (110A-110C) are shown in Fig. 1b represents no defect in the explanation of the invention, which is meant to be merely illustrative.

The secondary storage devices 112a and 112b are also shown in Figure 1a. As Figure 1b is not directed to any discussion of the secondary storage devices 112a, 112b, they need not be shown therein. Figure 1a is a block diagram of a particular computer system, while Fig. 1b is a block diagram of the buffer management system of the computer system shown in Fig. 1a. Sufficient components of Figure 1a are shown in Figure 1b to be placed in the proper context by the reader.

Claims 1, 2, 5, 8 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Chung, et al. (US 5,675,797). In addition, claims 3, 4, 6, 7, 10, 11, 13 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chung, et al. and Yoshimoto, et al. (US 5,862,409).

Major differences exist between Chung, et al. (Hereinafter "Chung") and the present invention. The primary concern of Chung is the optimal sizing of multiple buffers within a buffer system having fixed resources of a single state, each buffer being associated with a single database on a single data processing system. The goal of Chung is to efficiently allocate buffers so as to maximize the overall performance of the system given fixed buffer resources. Allocation of buffer resources for each database is accomplished with reference to a performance index, which, in one embodiment is calculated by dividing an estimated getpage response by a predetermined goal.

The focus of the present invention, on the other hand, is the proper sizing of a buffer pool and

efficiently allocating space within that buffer to a plurality of states, in one embodiment, a fixed state, a pageable state, and a released state. Total fixed storage and total fixed plus pageable storage (i.e., virtual storage) is varied by a buffer manager in order to meet target values specified by a system administrator. When a buffer is free, it is identified as an entry on one of three linked lists (one list for each storage state). The lists reside in virtual storage within a structure referred to as the buffer index table. Thus, the present invention is concerned with buffer sizing and the allocation of the space within chosen buffer among the three storage states, rather than moving buffers between servers as is Chung. Additionally, the present invention uses as a criteria present usage of the amount of storage, rather than a performance index as in Chung.

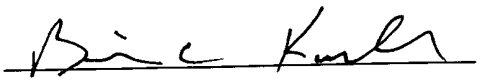
As all elements of the present invention are not located in the prior art of record, a *prima facie* case of anticipation or obviousness of the claims has not been presented. Specifically, the allotment of buffers between a plurality of selected states is not taught by the prior art, nor is a criteria for selecting the states of the present usage of the amount of storage in the buffers.

Accordingly, it is believed that the drawings and claims as originally filed are in a condition for allowance. Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

The foregoing is considered to be a complete response to the outstanding Office Action.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: September 24, 2001



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